STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

1-6. (canceled)

7. (original) A process for purifying human thrombopoietin (hTPO) from an hTPO-containing biological fluid, comprising the steps of:

(a) subjecting the biological fluid to affinity chromatography;

(b) subjecting the eluate obtained at step (a) to hydrophobic interaction chromatography;

(c) subjecting the eluate obtained at step (b) to reverse phased chromatography; and

(d) subjecting the eluate obtained at step (c) to anion exchange chromatography.

8. (original) The process as set forth in claim 7, wherein the eluate obtained at step (c) is loaded onto an ionic exchange chromatography column, and hTPO eluted selectively from the column by a 0.15-0.3M sodium chloride gradient is collected.

9. (original) The process as set forth in claim 7, further comprising a step of carrying out gel filtration chromatography after step (d).

10. (original) The process as set forth in claim 7, wherein the hTPO-containing biological fluid is a culture supernatant from the culture fluid produced by the process of the claim 1.

11. (original) The process as set forth in claim 7, wherein a column used in the affinity chromatography at step (a) is eluted with phosphate buffer containing 1 M sodium chloride.

12. (original) The process as set forth in claim 7, wherein a column used in the reverse phased chromatography at step (c) is eluted with an ethanol gradient.

13. (original) A fraction containing hTPO purified by the process of claim 8.